

**00636**

**1962/10/23**

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 17349

Rec'd: October 23, 1962

4:30 p.m.

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FROM: Madrid

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 504, October 23, 8 p.m.

PRIORITY

President's Cuba speech received fullest media coverage: Editorial reaction has not had time develop fully (see separate USIS message)

GOS officials with whom Embassy officers have spoken have individually gone further in praising President's actions than the official Foreign Office communique (EMBTel 502). For example, in discussing with DCM international situation in light President's speech, Foreign Office Undersecretary Cortina said he confident Spanish people and government would understand and support President's action. He said Cuban situation clearly intolerable for US and direct action required. He thought earlier action might have been desirable but indicated Spanish support for courses of action outlined in President's speech and for even stronger measures if required. He speculated at length re possible Soviet reaction and appeared believe some action against Berlin most likely and direct hostilities in Caribbean area most unlikely.

Approving attitude of Spanish armed forces made clear to Embassy officer by both Minos Grandes and Air Minister. They appeared to reflect attitude noted elsewhere to effect that Presidential moves excellent, and should even have been made sooner.

Consulate Valencia reports speech received with some surprise at US firmness, and with slight undercurrent of fear war imminent.

Incomplete sampling opposition opinion (socialist) reveals theory

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-2- 504, October 23, 8 p.m. from Madrid

that Cuba not really threat to US and therefore speech made to impress not Castro but Khrushchev in advance possible Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting.

Delegation CONSEJO REVOLUCIONARIA DE CUBA called Embassy today bringing letter to President expressing their enthusiasm.

WOODWARD

LTR/14

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